

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, March 24, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, March 24, 1845.

*My Dear General*, A few days since I wrote you a letter in favor of Stevenson, and was tempted to throw in a word or two about the aspect the administration held towards the Globe. I forget whether in any of my previous letters I told you that the President had sent for me and Rives about publishing his Inaugural, the disposition of which he had intimated in a previous conversation would designate the press in which he meant to confide. Under that expectation Mr. Rives attended the summons. The Editors of the other paper also attended; and Mr. Polk in their presence delivering it to Mr. Rives and giving the rest to understand that they were not to have it until day after Mr. Rives had printed it for inauguration; and actually withholding after it was printed until all the mails were gone on that day before its Pi was shaken. I took it as settling the question as to *the Official*, and so acted, until I saw an authorized declaration in the Madisonian a day or two back, that no organ had been selected. I should have considered this a falsehood of the Tyler Journal, but for the marked reserve that I perceived in the President toward me. And this announcement of the Madisonian furnishing the occasion, I called on Mr. Polk and asked him, whether I had mistaken his suggestion about the delivering of his Inaugural as indicating his choice of Govt. organ. As the suggestion was made to me twice *before* and *after* the Inaugural was sent to the Globe press, I thought I could not be mistaken.

On my explicit interrogatory today, he told me that I was mistaken, that he had meant to convey to me the idea that he would send the inaugural to me that I might understand

## Library of Congress

his principles, etc. etc. We had a long conversation in which he renewed his proposal, made and rejected on his first arrival, of my surrendering my paper to Major Donelson and getting out of view myself, that *the cliques* might all unite on his administration. He thought they could not come to him, if I was visible, etc. I told him that although I had for twelve years before lashed all the enemies of the honest Democracy and had John Tyler and his Administration bribing for a year in advance to defeat me in the last Congress, yet I had beat them all and they were compelled by fear of their constituents to unite on the faithful organ of the party. I told him that cliques in the party didn't grow out of hostility to me, but out of the ambition of aspiring men looking to the succession, that the Globe out of the question, he might find them in his own Cabinet in the Walker and [Marcy?] longings for the presidency on one side, and the Buchannan longings on the other, that your mode was to have a pretty thoroughgoing organ that would do your bidding and whip *in or out*, restless men and that was the only mode of making a mild party and not by indulging cliques or throwing overboard the faithful pilot, etc. etc.

We talked two hours and although I think, I was a little *underated* in every way, in the estimate that supposed that I was worth nothing myself, but that the establishment I had built up by 14 years labor was of sufficient value to suggest the wish that I should surrender it to another without compensation and with the admission, that I had not character enough to authorize my remaining with it as a servant of the present Administration, yet I maintained a perfect respect and due sense of the position of Mr. Polk. I told him finally that I had no wish to embarrass his administration, would do nothing to divide the party, was willing in fact to discontinue the Globe if you and Mr. Van Buren who built it up, thought it would be a public benefit, yet that I would not sacrifice my reputation and honor by getting behind a screen, and that Mr. Rives would consent to go on with no other partner but me. He said he had written to you fully about his difficulties, that on hearing from you he *might* inform me of his determination. My opinion is that I have heard the last from him on this subject although his manner was very courteous and his professions very kind at the last.

## Library of Congress

Yo. friend